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CLAIMS

1. Orally, parenterally, transdermally or subcutaneously administrable pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient the amino acid sequence of the long pentraxin PTX3, and a pharmacologically acceptable excipient.
2. Composition according to claim 1, in which the sequence of the long pentraxin PTX3 is the sequence of naturally occurring PTX3.
3. Composition according to claim 2, in which the sequence of the long pentraxin FITX3 is the sequence of human PTX3.
4. Composition according to claim 1, for the treatment of infectious and inflammatory diseases or tumours.
5. Composition according to claim 4, for the treatment of diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses.
6. Method of gene therapy for the treatment of tumour conditions, comprising:
- (a) taking samples of cells from a patient suffering from a cancer;
 - (b) transfecting such cells with an expression vector containing the complete cDNA sequence coding for the long pentraxin FITX3 or one of its functional derivatives; and (c) inoculating said patient with such transfected cells.

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7. Method of gene therapy for the treatment of tumour conditions comprising:
- 5 a) preparation of an expression vector of viral origin containing the complete cDNA sequence coding for the long pentraxin PXT3 or one of its functional derivatives; and
- b) injection of the expression vector thus obtained into a patient suffering from a cancer.
- 10 8. Method according to claim 7, in which the expression vector of viral origin is an adenovirus or retrovirus.
9. Use of the long pentraxin PTX3 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of infectious, inflammatory or tumour diseases.
- 15 10. Use according to claim 9, in which the long pentraxin PTX3 is the human pentraxin having sequence SEQ. ID. NO: 1.
11. Use according to claim 10, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses.
- 20 12. Use of cDNA coding for the long pentraxin PTX3 or one of its functional derivatives, said long pentraxin PTX3 or said functional derivatives having activity in the treatment of infectious and inflammatory diseases or tumours, for the preparation of expression vectors containing such cDNA to be

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used in gene therapy methods for the treatment of tumour conditions.

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